To Maria Chapman

Dear Friend

I have to inform thee on behalf of the Belfast Ladies Antislavery committee that they forwarded to thy address via Dublin through Richard Webb a box of articles for the Boston Bazaar the invoice of which I inclose. Each piece of work was valued at the supposed price of the materials of which it is made So far as we can judge they would in our shops bring about double the invoice prices — We entered them thus on account of the enormous rate of duty. Whatever contributions we could collect on this occasion are all sent to you as the immediate coadjutors of our valued friend Frederick Douglass. Indeed we are almost ashamed of so small an offering from Belfast. but trust that a consideration

Ms.A.9.2.6.17

of our position will account for it
The peculiarly destitute state in which the
poor of this country have been placed
for the last year engrossed ~~to~~ much
of the time and attention of our members
and of those ladies who would otherwise have
been contributors to the American bazaars.

In aid of the funds of our two relief associations
two bazaars each extensively contributed to
by our antislavery friends were held in
this town within the last ten months
and preparations for a third in behalf of an
important provincial institution are now
vigorously going forward — and I may also
add that nearly all the members of this committee
have been actively engaged on the
subcommittees of the relief associations
Several of the things contained in our box
were purchased at the late bazaar here with the
express view of presenting them to you — thus
aiding the funds of two benevolent institutions
at the same time — Their having been exposed
for sale on another occasion will account
for the somewhat tossed appearance of a few
articles.

We continue to receive newspapers
published by both sections of American abolitionists

and thus place ourselves in circumstances to have a full view of the movements and sentiments of each. Our conviction of the propriety of the position assumed by the Belfast Ladies Antislavery Association at the time of its organization when it took an independent stand without pledging itself to be the partizan of any section, remains unshaken. Observation at home and abroad has abundantly tended to strengthen us in the belief that the real advancement of antislavery principles and the exercise of true Christian charity are both opposed to the intolerant spirit of party which so often manifests itself in stepping aside from the main warfare to seek for holes in the skirts of brethren who cannot see eye for eye with us in regard to the best means to be used for the attainment of the common object

We cannot by any means see with you as stated in thy letter of last winter that simultaneous efforts to help the two leading sections of American abolitionists are subversive of each other. This indeed would be the case if we gave our countenance on one hand to pro slavery and on the other to antislavery ~~parties~~ efforts — But that is a matter quite out of the question — Here we have honest zealous advocates on both sides and we trust never to close our eyes or our hearts against what is good in either.

With sentiments of great regard permit me to add that we earnestly long to see substituted for the acrimony of party in our own country as well as in yours that spirit of enlarged Christian charity which prompts philanthropists whilst differing on minor points to bid good-speed to ~~asso~~ associations whose objects are similar to their own

Faithfully & sincerely
thy friend
Maria Webb

Belfast 12th mo 2nd 47

Ms.A.9.2.6.17